

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Ag 84 Pro #396

#396

MAKE YOUR FARM POND

Safe

PREVENT DROWNINGS

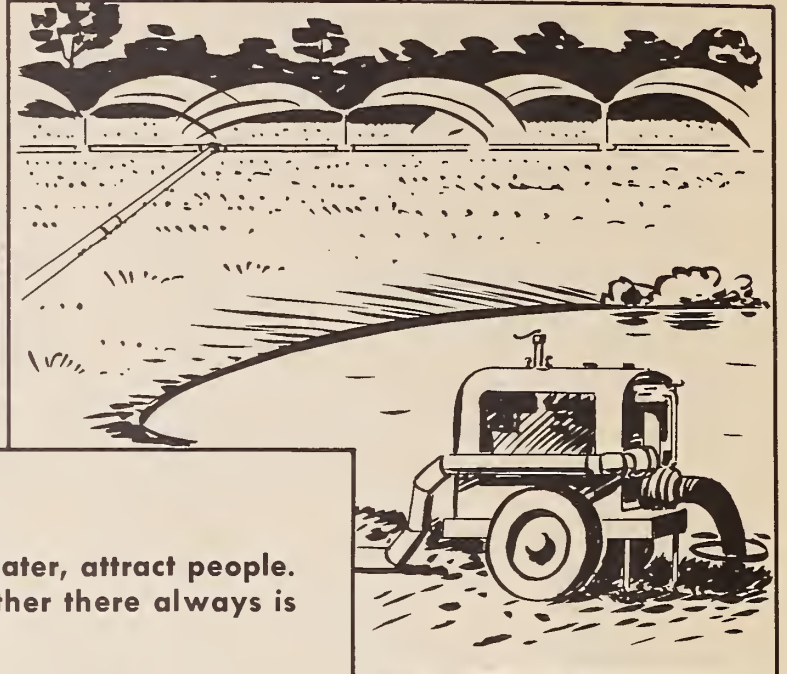
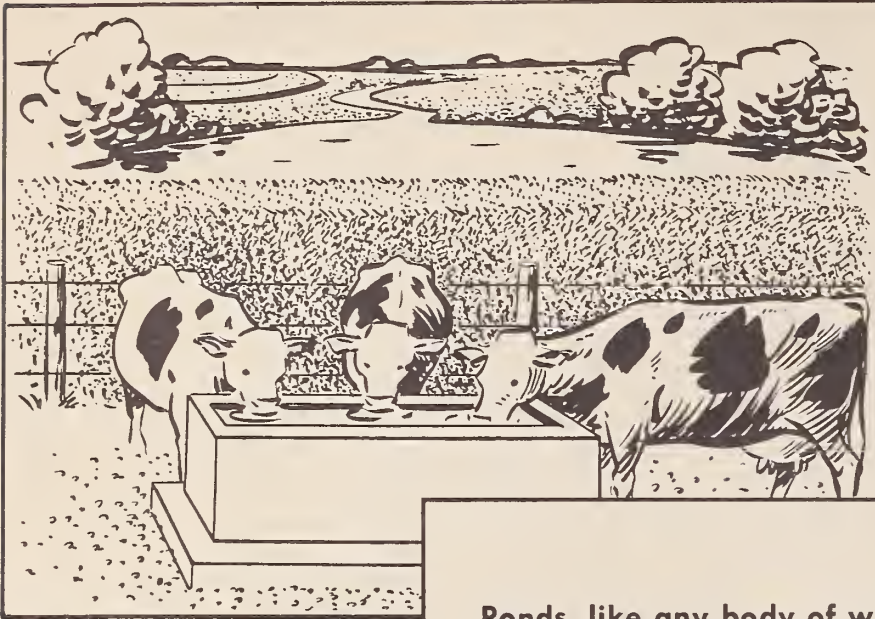


PA-396

Soil Conservation Service

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

A Farm Pond Has Many Uses!

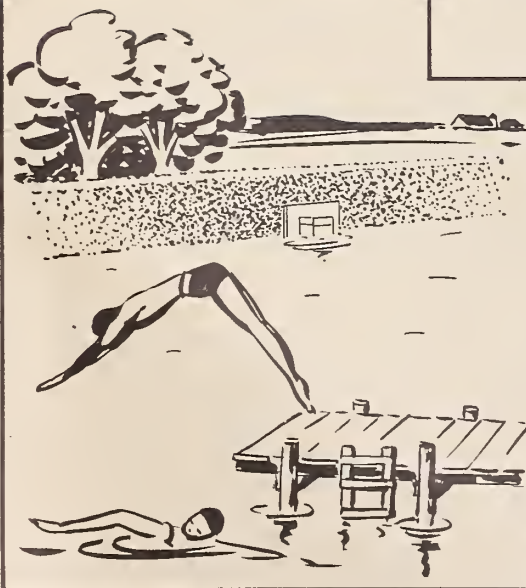


Ponds, like any body of water, attract people. When the two come together there always is chance of a drowning.

Ponds are a valuable asset and have many uses. During the past quarter century farmers and ranchers have built nearly a million ponds as part of their soil and water conservation plans.

You may be planning to build a farm pond or you may be one of the farmers and ranchers who has built ponds with technical help that local soil conservation districts obtained from the Soil Conservation Service. You may have wanted livestock water, irrigation, or fire protection. But your family and friends will want to picnic beside the pond or swim, boat, fish, or ice skate. The small boy passing by may do most anything.

Your farm or ranch pond can be a source of joy as well as profit, **BUT ONLY IF IT IS SAFE!**



Make Your Farm Pond Safe

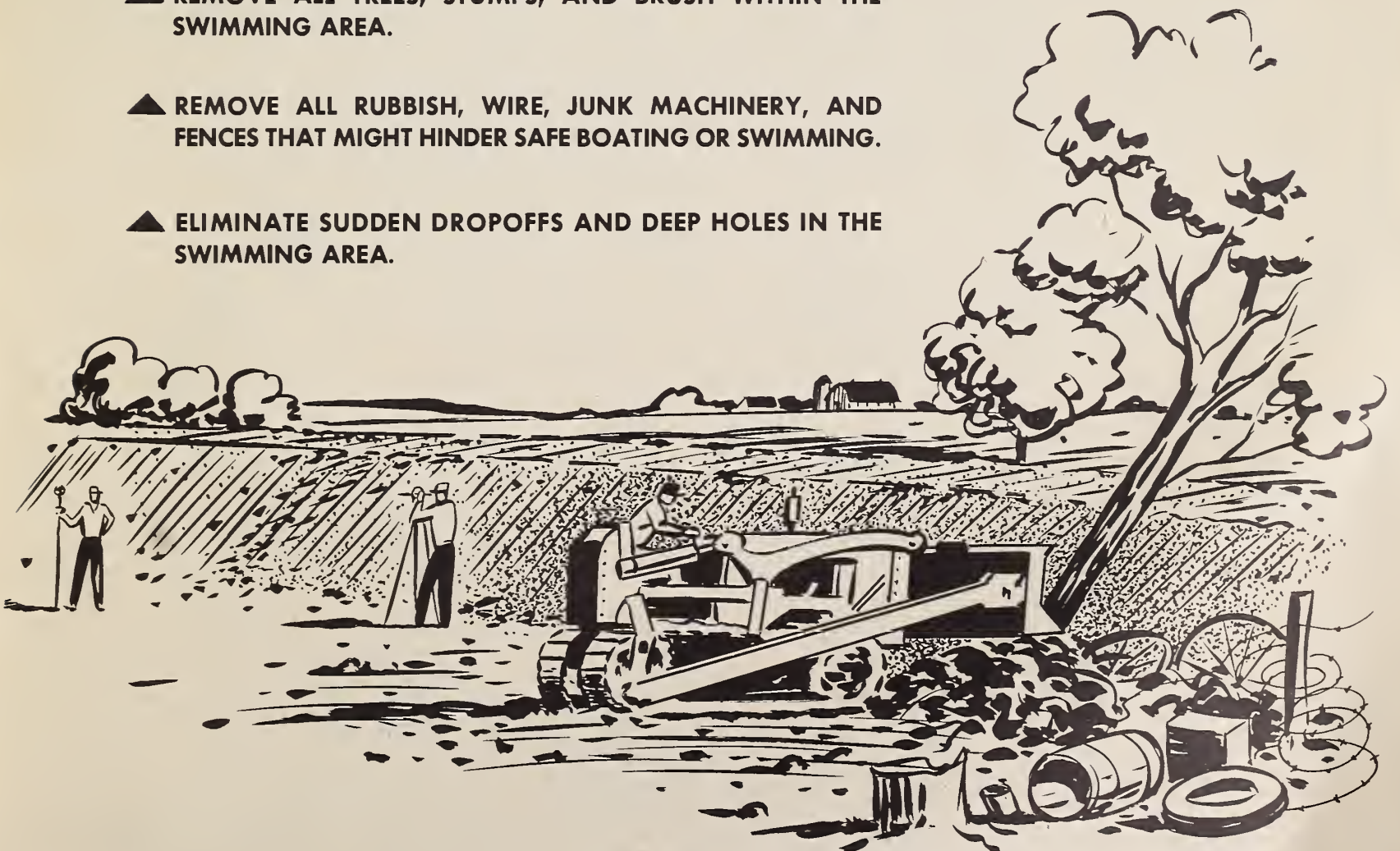
BEFORE YOU BUILD YOUR POND . . .

- ▲ FIND OUT WHAT YOUR COMMUNITY OR STATE LAWS SAY ABOUT YOUR LIABILITY IN CASE OF ACCIDENT OR DEATH. YOU MAY NEED TO PROTECT YOURSELF WITH INSURANCE.
- ▲ LOCATE YOUR POND SO THAT IT WILL NOT GET THE DRAINAGE FROM BARNYARDS OR SEWERS.
- ▲ DECIDE HOW YOU ARE GOING TO USE THE WATER SO THAT THE ENGINEER CAN PROVIDE FOR SWIMMING BEACHES, GUARDS OVER CONDUITS, AND OTHER SAFETY MEASURES WHEN HE DESIGNS THE POND.
- ▲ HAVE YOUR POND BUILT BY A RELIABLE CONTRACTOR WHO WILL FOLLOW THE ENGINEERING SPECIFICATIONS.



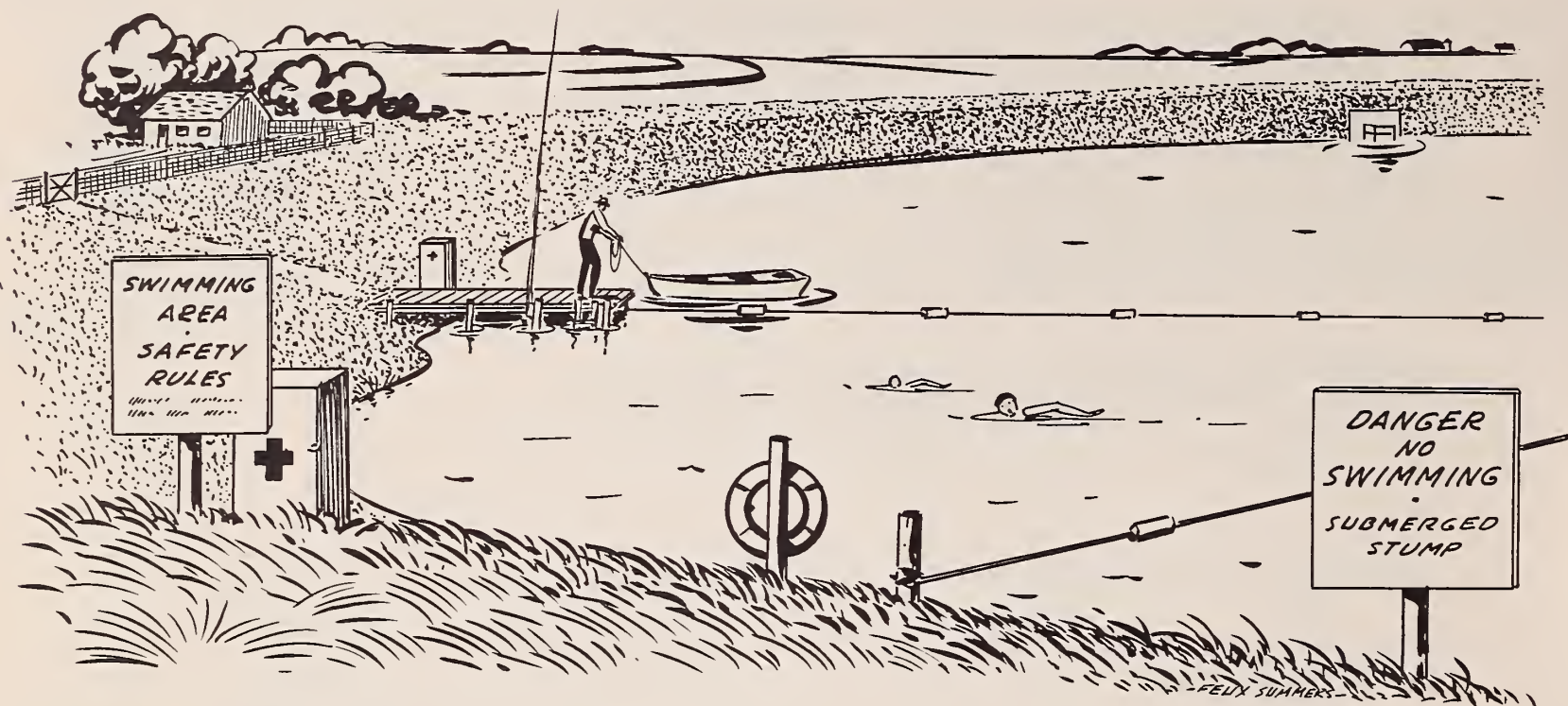
DURING CONSTRUCTION . . .

- ▲ REMOVE ALL TREES, STUMPS, AND BRUSH WITHIN THE SWIMMING AREA.
- ▲ REMOVE ALL RUBBISH, WIRE, JUNK MACHINERY, AND FENCES THAT MIGHT HINDER SAFE BOATING OR SWIMMING.
- ▲ ELIMINATE SUDDEN DROPOFFS AND DEEP HOLES IN THE SWIMMING AREA.



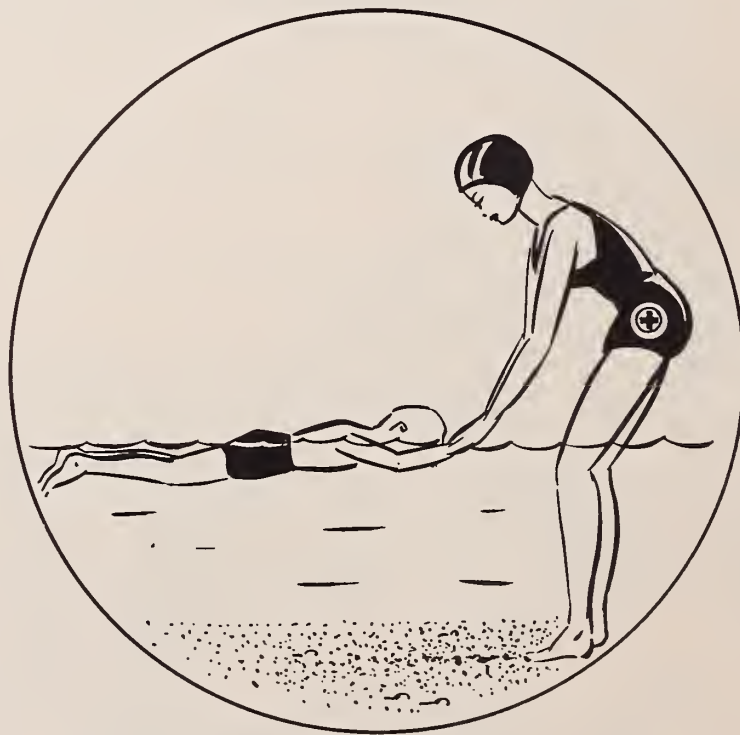
WHEN POND IS COMPLETED . . .

- ▲ MARK THE SAFE SWIMMING AREAS.
- ▲ PLACE WARNING SIGNS AT DANGER POINTS.
- ▲ PLACE LIFESAVING DEVICES SUCH AS RING BUOYS, ROPES, OR LONG POLES AT SWIMMING AREAS.
- ▲ POST SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS FOR BOATING, SWIMMING, AND SKATING.
- ▲ NEVER SWIM OR SKATE ALONE.
- ▲ USE BOATS THAT WILL FLOAT IF SWAMPED OR CAPSIZED.
- ▲ STAY OUT OF FARM PONDS DURING STORMS AND WHEN SPILLWAYS ARE FLOWING.
- ▲ RECOGNIZE THAT FARM PONDS ARE HAZARDS TO SMALL CHILDREN.



OTHER IMPORTANT POINTS . . .

- ▲ NONSWIMMERS SHOULD WEAR LIFEJACKETS IN BOATS.
- ▲ ALL CHILDREN SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO LEARN TO SWIM. THE RED CROSS, FFA, 4-H, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS HELP WITH SWIMMING, LIFESAVING, AND ARTIFICIAL-RESPIRATION INSTRUCTION.
- ▲ POSTERS ON SAFE BOATING, SWIMMING, AND SKATING ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS THAT DEAL WITH WATER SAFETY.



This publication has been developed by the Soil Conservation Service to aid its field employees in discussing water safety, part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's overall farm safety program.